

on small strips of land, just appearing above water, and surrounded by sedges: the nests are placed in a row, mingled with those of other birds, and are constructed of reeds externally, and weeds inside; each nest is three or four inches high, and contained on the first of June one egg, of an olive-green colour, spotted irregularly with chocolate, brown, and purple patches.

Sterna nigra, Linn. Procured May 24. Found in the stomach beetles. Iris very dark brown, almost approaching to black. Common at the river, where these birds are seen in small companies.

**Sterna Hirundo*, Linn. Procured May 24. Found in the stomach fish. Iris hazel. Frequents the river: common. Breeds on the slips of land that are laid bare by the diminishing of the waters at the river: it makes no nest, but lays its eggs on the ground.

On the Crania and Dentition of Carnivora, by Mr. Waterhouse: (see p. 25 of this volume.)

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

November 15.—John Reynolds, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair.

Donations of British plants were announced from several members. Mr. Daniel Cooper called the attention of the meeting to several varieties of British plants which he had selected from the several parcels sent in for distribution.

Mr. T. G. R. Rylands communicated notes on "*Aspidium lobatum*, var. β . *Lonchitidoides*." Mr. R. having long doubted the permanency of this "variety," but having had but few satisfactory opportunities of judging, came to no decision on the subject. On the 11th of March, 1839, he met with a plant which he considers goes far to prove that it is but casual, since from one root he gathered fronds belonging to both α and β , and of almost all the grades between; the following may serve as characters of four of the fronds, specimens of which were exhibited.

1. Fronds distinctly bipinnate (*var. a.*). 2. Frond sub-bipinnate, upper and lower primary pinnules distinct and auricled, pinnæ more or less pinnatifid. 3. Frond sub-bipinnate, *upper* primary pinnules *only* distinct, pinnæ inciso-serrate. 4. Fronds almost simply pinnate, only one or two of the upper primary pinnules distinct and scarcely auricled, and those at the bottom of the frond (*var. β*). No. 1 Mr. R. considers in all respects *lobatum verum*, and No. 4 is as far from it as he has ever seen one. He has since had the plant in cultivation, and though small (owing to the confinement of the

on small strips of land, just appearing above water, and surrounded by sedges: the nests are placed in a row, mingled with those of other birds, and are constructed of reeds externally, and weeds inside; each nest is three or four inches high, and contained on the first of June one egg, of an olive-green colour, spotted irregularly with chocolate, brown, and purple patches.

Sterna nigra, Linn. Procured May 24. Found in the stomach beetles. Iris very dark brown, almost approaching to black. Common at the river, where these birds are seen in small companies.

**Sterna Hirundo*, Linn. Procured May 24. Found in the stomach fish. Iris hazel. Frequents the river: common. Breeds on the slips of land that are laid bare by the diminishing of the waters at the river: it makes no nest, but lays its eggs on the ground.

On the Crania and Dentition of Carnivora, by Mr. Waterhouse: (see p. 25 of this volume.)

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

November 15.—John Reynolds, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair.

Donations of British plants were announced from several members. Mr. Daniel Cooper called the attention of the meeting to several varieties of British plants which he had selected from the several parcels sent in for distribution.

Mr. T. G. R. Rylands communicated notes on "*Aspidium lobatum*, var. β . *Lonchitidoides*." Mr. R. having long doubted the permanency of this "variety," but having had but few satisfactory opportunities of judging, came to no decision on the subject. On the 11th of March, 1839, he met with a plant which he considers goes far to prove that it is but casual, since from one root he gathered fronds belonging to both α and β , and of almost all the grades between; the following may serve as characters of four of the fronds, specimens of which were exhibited.

1. Fronds distinctly bipinnate (*var. a.*). 2. Frond sub-bipinnate, upper and lower primary pinnules distinct and auricled, pinnæ more or less pinnatifid. 3. Frond sub-bipinnate, *upper* primary pinnules *only* distinct, pinnæ inciso-serrate. 4. Fronds almost simply pinnate, only one or two of the upper primary pinnules distinct and scarcely auricled, and those at the bottom of the frond (*var. β*). No. 1 Mr. R. considers in all respects *lobatum verum*, and No. 4 is as far from it as he has ever seen one. He has since had the plant in cultivation, and though small (owing to the confinement of the

on small strips of land, just appearing above water, and surrounded by sedges: the nests are placed in a row, mingled with those of other birds, and are constructed of reeds externally, and weeds inside; each nest is three or four inches high, and contained on the first of June one egg, of an olive-green colour, spotted irregularly with chocolate, brown, and purple patches.

Sterna nigra, Linn. Procured May 24. Found in the stomach beetles. Iris very dark brown, almost approaching to black. Common at the river, where these birds are seen in small companies.

**Sterna Hirundo*, Linn. Procured May 24. Found in the stomach fish. Iris hazel. Frequents the river: common. Breeds on the slips of land that are laid bare by the diminishing of the waters at the river: it makes no nest, but lays its eggs on the ground.

On the Crania and Dentition of Carnivora, by Mr. Waterhouse: (see p. 25 of this volume.)

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

November 15.—John Reynolds, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair.

Donations of British plants were announced from several members. Mr. Daniel Cooper called the attention of the meeting to several varieties of British plants which he had selected from the several parcels sent in for distribution.

Mr. T. G. R. Rylands communicated notes on "*Aspidium lobatum*, var. β . *Lonchitidoides*." Mr. R. having long doubted the permanency of this "variety," but having had but few satisfactory opportunities of judging, came to no decision on the subject. On the 11th of March, 1839, he met with a plant which he considers goes far to prove that it is but casual, since from one root he gathered fronds belonging to both α and β , and of almost all the grades between; the following may serve as characters of four of the fronds, specimens of which were exhibited.

1. Fronds distinctly bipinnate (*var. a.*). 2. Frond sub-bipinnate, upper and lower primary pinnules distinct and auricled, pinnæ more or less pinnatifid. 3. Frond sub-bipinnate, *upper* primary pinnules *only* distinct, pinnæ inciso-serrate. 4. Fronds almost simply pinnate, only one or two of the upper primary pinnules distinct and scarcely auricled, and those at the bottom of the frond (*var. β*). No. 1 Mr. R. considers in all respects *lobatum verum*, and No. 4 is as far from it as he has ever seen one. He has since had the plant in cultivation, and though small (owing to the confinement of the

roots) will, he thinks, produce fronds of both varieties this season. A singular monstrous variety of *Juncus*, found in Faversham, Kent, by Mr. Cowell, was exhibited. Specimens of *Rhinanthus major* from near Hastings, Sussex, were exhibited by Mr. Ranking, who discovered them in that locality. A small slender-stemmed and purple-flowered variety of *Euphrasia officinalis*, (probably a new species,) discovered by the Rev. A. Bloxam, in Seamor Moor, near Scarborough, in 1838, was likewise exhibited. Mr. Daniel Cooper noticed a rare variety of *Bartsia Odontites*, found by him near Papplewick, Nottinghamshire, in September 1839, and described only in the seventh edition of Withering's British Flora, vol. iii. p. 727, and noticed thus—" *Bartsia Odontites*, var. 2. Flowers white, stem very pale green, leaves without any tinge of red." The two following localities are there quoted, "Gathered by Rev. — Bourne, on Northington Farm, Grimley, near Worcester." (Mr. Woodward also found this variety growing near Diss, in Norfolk.—*Ed.*) From this it would appear that the variety under consideration is by no means of common occurrence. The following is the additional station as given by Mr. Cooper: "At the south-east corner of a small wood called Jack-o-Sherwood, about half a mile from Papplewick, Nottinghamshire, in a marshy plot of ground, on the border of the small river," fully exposed to the rays of the sun. From the decided different character and appearance of this variety of so common a British species, Mr. Cooper is inclined to consider it deserving a place in the recent British Floras. In the recently published Flora of the county, Dr. Howitt does not mention it, neither is it to be found recorded in the recently published British Floras, with the exception of that of Dr. Withering above-quoted.

November 29.—Anniversary Meeting. J. E. Gray, Esq., F.R.S.
President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the Third Annual Report, from which it appeared that donations of British plants had been received from the Botanical Society of Edinburgh and forty-eight members. The number of British specimens received amounted to 101 natural orders, 491 genera, 1291 species, including 24,860 specimens, being an increase in that of last year of 3 natural orders, 69 genera, 241 species, and 6268 specimens. As the British Phænogamous collection is daily becoming more complete, and as the Council anticipate shortly to have a perfect collection, the attention of the members is particularly solicited to the genera *Rubus*, *Rosa*, and *Salix*, as they are anxious to complete those genera and render them of service to

roots) will, he thinks, produce fronds of both varieties this season. A singular monstrous variety of *Juncus*, found in Faversham, Kent, by Mr. Cowell, was exhibited. Specimens of *Rhinanthus major* from near Hastings, Sussex, were exhibited by Mr. Ranking, who discovered them in that locality. A small slender-stemmed and purple-flowered variety of *Euphrasia officinalis*, (probably a new species,) discovered by the Rev. A. Bloxam, in Seamor Moor, near Scarborough, in 1838, was likewise exhibited. Mr. Daniel Cooper noticed a rare variety of *Bartsia Odontites*, found by him near Papplewick, Nottinghamshire, in September 1839, and described only in the seventh edition of Withering's British Flora, vol. iii. p. 727, and noticed thus—" *Bartsia Odontites*, var. 2. Flowers white, stem very pale green, leaves without any tinge of red." The two following localities are there quoted, "Gathered by Rev. — Bourne, on Northington Farm, Grimley, near Worcester." (Mr. Woodward also found this variety growing near Diss, in Norfolk.—*Ed.*) From this it would appear that the variety under consideration is by no means of common occurrence. The following is the additional station as given by Mr. Cooper: "At the south-east corner of a small wood called Jack-o-Sherwood, about half a mile from Papplewick, Nottinghamshire, in a marshy plot of ground, on the border of the small river," fully exposed to the rays of the sun. From the decided different character and appearance of this variety of so common a British species, Mr. Cooper is inclined to consider it deserving a place in the recent British Floras. In the recently published Flora of the county, Dr. Howitt does not mention it, neither is it to be found recorded in the recently published British Floras, with the exception of that of Dr. Withering above-quoted.

November 29.—Anniversary Meeting. J. E. Gray, Esq., F.R.S.
President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the Third Annual Report, from which it appeared that donations of British plants had been received from the Botanical Society of Edinburgh and forty-eight members. The number of British specimens received amounted to 101 natural orders, 491 genera, 1291 species, including 24,860 specimens, being an increase in that of last year of 3 natural orders, 69 genera, 241 species, and 6268 specimens. As the British Phænogamous collection is daily becoming more complete, and as the Council anticipate shortly to have a perfect collection, the attention of the members is particularly solicited to the genera *Rubus*, *Rosa*, and *Salix*, as they are anxious to complete those genera and render them of service to

roots) will, he thinks, produce fronds of both varieties this season. A singular monstrous variety of *Juncus*, found in Faversham, Kent, by Mr. Cowell, was exhibited. Specimens of *Rhinanthus major* from near Hastings, Sussex, were exhibited by Mr. Ranking, who discovered them in that locality. A small slender-stemmed and purple-flowered variety of *Euphrasia officinalis*, (probably a new species,) discovered by the Rev. A. Bloxam, in Seamor Moor, near Scarborough, in 1838, was likewise exhibited. Mr. Daniel Cooper noticed a rare variety of *Bartsia Odontites*, found by him near Papplewick, Nottinghamshire, in September 1839, and described only in the seventh edition of Withering's British Flora, vol. iii. p. 727, and noticed thus—" *Bartsia Odontites*, var. 2. Flowers white, stem very pale green, leaves without any tinge of red." The two following localities are there quoted, "Gathered by Rev. — Bourne, on Northington Farm, Grimley, near Worcester." (Mr. Woodward also found this variety growing near Diss, in Norfolk.—*Ed.*) From this it would appear that the variety under consideration is by no means of common occurrence. The following is the additional station as given by Mr. Cooper: "At the south-east corner of a small wood called Jack-o-Sherwood, about half a mile from Papplewick, Nottinghamshire, in a marshy plot of ground, on the border of the small river," fully exposed to the rays of the sun. From the decided different character and appearance of this variety of so common a British species, Mr. Cooper is inclined to consider it deserving a place in the recent British Floras. In the recently published Flora of the county, Dr. Howitt does not mention it, neither is it to be found recorded in the recently published British Floras, with the exception of that of Dr. Withering above-quoted.

November 29.—Anniversary Meeting. J. E. Gray, Esq., F.R.S.
President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the Third Annual Report, from which it appeared that donations of British plants had been received from the Botanical Society of Edinburgh and forty-eight members. The number of British specimens received amounted to 101 natural orders, 491 genera, 1291 species, including 24,860 specimens, being an increase in that of last year of 3 natural orders, 69 genera, 241 species, and 6268 specimens. As the British Phænogamous collection is daily becoming more complete, and as the Council anticipate shortly to have a perfect collection, the attention of the members is particularly solicited to the genera *Rubus*, *Rosa*, and *Salix*, as they are anxious to complete those genera and render them of service to

botanists for reference. The Society is much indebted to Mrs. Riley of Papplewick, Notts, for a complete collection of British Ferns, comprising all the genera, species, and varieties; to the Rev. W. T. Bree, for specimens of *Aspidium rigidum*, from the original station at Ingleborough, Yorkshire; and to Mr. J. Tatham, jun., of Settle, Yorkshire, for numerous specimens of the same species, collected by him on the hills in that vicinity. To the kindness of the Rev. A. Bloxam, the Society is indebted for specimens of a plant new to the British Flora, viz. *Myriophyllum alterniflorum*, discovered by him at Twycross, Leicestershire, in June 1839; and to Dr. Macreight, V.P., for additional specimens of *Spartina alterniflora*. The Council being desirous of forming an Herbarium of British Cryptogamic Plants, called the attention of the members to collecting the several tribes. Donations of nearly 6000 Foreign Plants were announced.—March 25, 1840.

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

A paper was read by Jonathan Osborne, M.D., on Aristotle's History of Animals.

Dr. Osborne commenced by observing, that this work was composed under circumstances more favourable to the acquisition of natural knowledge than any work on the subject ever published. According to Pliny, some thousands of men were placed at the disposal of the author, throughout Greece and Asia,—comprising persons connected with hunting and fishing, or who had the care of cattle, fish ponds or apiaries,—in order that he might obtain information from all these quarters, *ne quid usquam gentium ignoraretur ab eo*: and according to Athenæus, the same prince gave him, on account of the expenses incurred in composing it, 800 talents,—a sum, which, taken at the lowest, that is, the lesser Attic talent, amounts to above 79,000*l.* The work, composed under such auspices, is such as might have been expected. The extent of the observations is prodigious; and we cannot read far in any part of it, without being constrained to exclaim with Cicero, *Quis omnium doctior, quis acutior, quis in rebus vel inveniendis vel judicandis acrior Aristotele?*

Shortly after the introduction of Greek literature to Europe, and when this book was first printed, those sciences which have nature for their object were in the lowest condition. There was at that time no taste diffused for the study of zoology or comparative anatomy; and at later periods, when the value of these studies came to be better appreciated, the Aristotelian philosophy had fallen into

botanists for reference. The Society is much indebted to Mrs. Riley of Papplewick, Notts, for a complete collection of British Ferns, comprising all the genera, species, and varieties; to the Rev. W. T. Bree, for specimens of *Aspidium rigidum*, from the original station at Ingleborough, Yorkshire; and to Mr. J. Tatham, jun., of Settle, Yorkshire, for numerous specimens of the same species, collected by him on the hills in that vicinity. To the kindness of the Rev. A. Bloxam, the Society is indebted for specimens of a plant new to the British Flora, viz. *Myriophyllum alterniflorum*, discovered by him at Twycross, Leicestershire, in June 1839; and to Dr. Macreight, V.P., for additional specimens of *Spartina alterniflora*. The Council being desirous of forming an Herbarium of British Cryptogamic Plants, called the attention of the members to collecting the several tribes. Donations of nearly 6000 Foreign Plants were announced.—March 25, 1840.

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

A paper was read by Jonathan Osborne, M.D., on Aristotle's History of Animals.

Dr. Osborne commenced by observing, that this work was composed under circumstances more favourable to the acquisition of natural knowledge than any work on the subject ever published. According to Pliny, some thousands of men were placed at the disposal of the author, throughout Greece and Asia,—comprising persons connected with hunting and fishing, or who had the care of cattle, fish ponds or apiaries,—in order that he might obtain information from all these quarters, *ne quid usquam gentium ignoraretur ab eo*: and according to Athenæus, the same prince gave him, on account of the expenses incurred in composing it, 800 talents,—a sum, which, taken at the lowest, that is, the lesser Attic talent, amounts to above 79,000*l.* The work, composed under such auspices, is such as might have been expected. The extent of the observations is prodigious; and we cannot read far in any part of it, without being constrained to exclaim with Cicero, *Quis omnium doctior, quis acutior, quis in rebus vel inveniendis vel judicandis acrior Aristotele?*

Shortly after the introduction of Greek literature to Europe, and when this book was first printed, those sciences which have nature for their object were in the lowest condition. There was at that time no taste diffused for the study of zoology or comparative anatomy; and at later periods, when the value of these studies came to be better appreciated, the Aristotelian philosophy had fallen into

botanists for reference. The Society is much indebted to Mrs. Riley of Papplewick, Notts, for a complete collection of British Ferns, comprising all the genera, species, and varieties; to the Rev. W. T. Bree, for specimens of *Aspidium rigidum*, from the original station at Ingleborough, Yorkshire; and to Mr. J. Tatham, jun., of Settle, Yorkshire, for numerous specimens of the same species, collected by him on the hills in that vicinity. To the kindness of the Rev. A. Bloxam, the Society is indebted for specimens of a plant new to the British Flora, viz. *Myriophyllum alterniflorum*, discovered by him at Twycross, Leicestershire, in June 1839; and to Dr. Macreight, V.P., for additional specimens of *Spartina alterniflora*. The Council being desirous of forming an Herbarium of British Cryptogamic Plants, called the attention of the members to collecting the several tribes. Donations of nearly 6000 Foreign Plants were announced.—March 25, 1840.

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

A paper was read by Jonathan Osborne, M.D., on Aristotle's History of Animals.

Dr. Osborne commenced by observing, that this work was composed under circumstances more favourable to the acquisition of natural knowledge than any work on the subject ever published. According to Pliny, some thousands of men were placed at the disposal of the author, throughout Greece and Asia,—comprising persons connected with hunting and fishing, or who had the care of cattle, fish ponds or apiaries,—in order that he might obtain information from all these quarters, *ne quid usquam gentium ignoraretur ab eo*: and according to Athenæus, the same prince gave him, on account of the expenses incurred in composing it, 800 talents,—a sum, which, taken at the lowest, that is, the lesser Attic talent, amounts to above 79,000*l.* The work, composed under such auspices, is such as might have been expected. The extent of the observations is prodigious; and we cannot read far in any part of it, without being constrained to exclaim with Cicero, *Quis omnium doctior, quis acutior, quis in rebus vel inveniendis vel judicandis acrior Aristotele?*

Shortly after the introduction of Greek literature to Europe, and when this book was first printed, those sciences which have nature for their object were in the lowest condition. There was at that time no taste diffused for the study of zoology or comparative anatomy; and at later periods, when the value of these studies came to be better appreciated, the Aristotelian philosophy had fallen into